## THE OXYGEN GAS LIGHT.

Progress in the Production of Artificial Light-Illuminative Gases—Private Experiments on the Density and Intensity in Light Between Carburetted Hydrogen, Oxygen in Combinadon with Street Gas and the English Standar

fandle on the Photometer.

In the progress and development of science there has been no branch of chemical demonstration which has marked the advance of human knowledge so pintedly as the production of artificial light.

Indeed, so silently and rapidly have discoveries of the most profound character been thrown upon the world and made necessities almost on the moment, that few have stopped to inquire by whom, when or where they were made objects of commerce, or conveniences indispensable to the dwelling, the factory,

There are persons living in this city who have not forgotten when gas was introduced and burned in the house No. 7 Cherry street, less than half a century age; and there are many living in London and Paris who distinctly remember when the brightest artificial light-preceding the introduction of the carburetted hydrogen or common street gas-known was obtained from oil, or the tallow, the sperm or the wax candie. A century ago even the candle was a miser-able apology for sunlight, and preceding its general ese was the smoky flambeau, the torch in city and mansion, while the rush dipped in melted fat was the best the peasant in his cheerless cot could command.

With the introduction of carburetted hydrogen as an illuminator—a discovery quite as wonderful in its way as many which have since astonished the world, not even excepting the electric telegraph or the steam engine—a new start in the unending, ever-opening highway of knowledge, and consequent civilization, was taken. The discovery of illuminating gas, surpassing in brilliancy the choicest light then known many times, astonished the world "The light of the sun is almost rivalled," exclaimed an English writer, in his enthusiasm. "In this department, at least, science can no further go. Chemistry has reached its ultima thule. It has bestowed an inestimable boon on mankind, and for this it should be reverenced. It has given light; it has sorned night into day." .

The body of the people were doubtless pleased with the introduction of the carburetted hydrogen gas into their streets, dwellings and stores, but those curious persons who are forever questi oning, terturing and coaxing nature out of her secret were not. They demanded from her something more. They desired a light brilliant as that of day, if it were possible.

Many brave attempts, it must be confessed, have been made to put the great central ill uminator of our system out of countenance: but although much has been done toward solving the problem as to whether the sun or chemistry combining and burning certain of its gases can produce the most lightble and the brightest. The calcium or lime ligh was a grand discovery, but it could not be safe ly, generally and cheaply used. Next to it, but many, any times more brilliant. is the electric lightlight which almost seems to be illuminative as the sun. The electric light is, however, uncertain; it blinks and winks, and at inopportune moments puts itself out, and is very costly. Next to these, and, perhaps, more agreeable, as it certainly is cheaper than every other kind in use, is the oxygen light.

This light, the intensity of which was measured on Puesday evening in the photometric department of the College of the City of New York by Professor Deremus, is the invention of French sa vants, and must of necessity, from its purity, brilliancy, agreeableness and cheapness, almost immediately supplant every other form of gas light, whether mad e from oil, coal, tar or any substance known in which carbon preponderates. In the course of the professor's experiments it was shown that, while the intensity of a jet of carburetted hydrogen gas manufactured by the Manhattan Company was only, as tested by an offed disc placed on the photometer, thirteen and a half times greater than was the illuminative properties of the English standard candle, by which light is measured, the oxygen light, consuming about one-third the number of cubic feet in the hour, was more than six times stronger; or, to make the matter plainer, while a jet of common gas posscesed an illuminative property thirteen and a haif times that of the candle the jet of oxygen and caruretted hydrogen gases, compared with the carburetted hydrogen and air, was approximately as sineteen to one, and with the English standard andle as two hundred and fifty-six times to one. In ther words, to equal a jet of oxygen with coal gas its light giving property two hundred and fifty-six

and its fight giving property two modred and inity-six candies of the English standard would have to be burned, or, in their place, thirteen jets of street gas, consuming each five cubic feet to the jet, for oxygen gas burning two cubic feet within the hour. This is wonderful; and had we not been present and closely followed the professor while conducting his experiments, it is a question if we could readily accept the final statement. This is not all. The commercial value must be

This is not all. The commercial value must be taken into consideration. It is of little use to offer a beautiful and brilliant light if it is not in consonance with our ideas of economy. If the oxygen gas, with nucleen times the intensity of the carburcted

a ceautiful and brilliant light if it is not in consonance with our ideas of economy. If the oxygen gas, with nineteen times the intensity of the carburctted hydrogen, were proportionably expensive the street gas costing \$3 so per one thousand cubic feet, it can be obtained at a comparatively moderate figure, actually at a lower rate than the carburctted hydrogen with which in equal parts it is made to combine, the question of general use need not be taken into consideration, it must follow of necessity. We may approach the cost of the gases in this wise:—

If by burning one-third the amount of street gas we produce six times the quantity of light for the same number of cubic feet of street gas, consumed with pure oxygen, we should have eighteen times the quantity of light. To produce the same amount of light we would require only one-eighteenth, or about twenty ents; worth, or one thousand cubic feet of street gas, we need only one-eighteenth, or about twenty cents; worth, or fifty-six cubic feet, for the same light. This coal gas needs an equal volume of pure oxygen for its complete combustion, hence we must have one-eighteenth of one thousand cubic feet. Suppose oxygen should be sold for \$20 per ene thousand cubic feet, we would only require \$1 H worth, or one-eighteenth of \$20 to consume the ooal gas. Hence to have light equal to \$3 50 worth of coal gas as ordinarily burned, we would only want twenty cents' worth of coal gas and \$1 H worth of pure oxygen, or \$1 31 worth of the two gases. It however, the light should be only ten times as brilliant, we would then require one-tenth the quantity of coal gas, or thirty-five cents' worth, and of pure oxygen, \$2—total cost \$2 35, for a light equal to \$2 bence, cost of street gas, thirty-five cents; worth, and of pure oxygen one-tenth of a thousand, or one hundred enbic feet. This, at \$20 a thousand, would be \$2; hence, cost of street gas in thirty-five cents; worth, and of pure oxygen one-tenth of a thousand, or one hundred enbic feet. This, at \$20 a thousand, or

sanitaring power of sixteen and a half times that of sanitaring burner. The ordinary ground glass shade reduces the light one-half in brilliancy, though it makes it more voluminous.

Like every other discovery, there are many things about it of a mechanical nature that must be improved. The perfect oxygen light is made by burning, in combination, fifty of oxygen with an equal number of parts of carburetted hydrogen. On that no improvement can be made; but in the mode of burning there ought to be. The crayon, composed of magnesia, on which the united gases play, when ignited, requires to be renewed weekly; but this we are informed is about to be still further improved by the introduction of a composition pencil which is believed to be durable; and then the pipes and burners are, to say the least, clumsy and complicated. These hast will soon be displaced, and a burner, simple in form and not liable to get out of repair, the invention of an American, substituted.

It is carious to trace the progress which has been made in developing artificial light within the last two hundred years. First, in the country places of Europe we had the rush, stripped of its outer coating and dipped in melted fat, giving when ignited a feeble and uncertain ray; next, in the towns, the torch and the link charged with resin; then the wick floating in oil, followed by the candle, first of tailow or other adipose substance, subsequently improved by the latroduction of sperm and wax. Contemporaneous with the candle, we had first the vegetable and afterwards the animal oils; then camplenes and phosgenes of various strengths. Anterior to these last was the carburetted hydrogen or common street gas. Mineral or rock oils have taken the place of the animal and vegetable oils within the past few, years, even measurably displacing the street gas. And now all these must give way to the greatest and grandest discovery of all—the method by which oxygen can be obtained and consumed in association with carburetted hydrogen—say at three-fifths less cos

capitalists have organized themselves into a company and are about to commence the erection of suitable works, where the oxygen can be obtained for general use. The gas is portable; it can be conveyed to theatres, hotels, public buildings, workshops and mansions at trifling cost and burned in combination with the street gas, thus reducing the consumption of the former more than one-half. In time it will be conducted, as street gas now is, through the city by mains, and thence to each lamp post in the city making with its rich white light everything clear and reautiful that comes within its rays.

Another matter which should not be forgotten in connection with this light. Its introduction will greatly add to the purity of the air in public halls, theatres and mansions; for it supplies its own oxygen, instead of robbing the air, and yicids only a sixteenth or eighteenth part of carbonic acid.

Looked at from every side, and the new light commends itself to the public. It is cheaper, healthier, cooler, more brilliant, softer and whiter than common gas. With ladies it will certainly become a favorite, as, unlike gas, it does not try the complexion. Under its rays the eye can readily detect shades of color, selecting the various grades of blue from those of green, a thing next to impossible under the common carburetted light.

Our streets, supplied with the oxygen gas, would at night exceed anything in the way of public illumination that has ever been attempted. Imagine a square lighted from nineteen gas lamps where one now fammes, and some idea may be formed of its value. In the prevention of burgiaries and other high crimes ordinarily attempted at night twould in the course of the year save at least half its cost, while no part of the city would be so dark, even on the blackest nights, as to prevent the perusal of the features of any one within the distance of twenty feet.

the blackest nights, as to prevent the perusal of the features of any one within the distance of twenty feet.

It thus has everything to recommend it. For the dwelling and where people congregate in large numbers it will not only give a splendid light, but assist in adding to the purity of the air momentarily breathed, while in the public ways it is certain to give the police a better view of the avenues they patrol, and thus prevent even the most desperate housebreaker from running the hazard of detection.

REPORT BY PROPESSOR DOREMUS.

The annexed report, detailing Professor Doremus' investigations into the properties of the new light and the many important uses to which the superabundance of oxygen (now that it can be readily and cheaply obtained) can be applied, made to Messrs. Stera, Stevens and French, in connection with "the processes of Messrs. Tessie du Môtay and Maréchal, of France, for producing oxygen and hydrogen gases," will be read by all who are interested in the developments and discoveries of science as applied to the necessities and luxuries of life:—

GENTLEMEN—The isolation of oxygen gas ranks first in importance among chemical discoveries.

This element forms more than one-half the weight of the known parts of the globe, including the crust, the water and the atmosphere, and the vegetable and the animal kingdoms, demonstrating the functions it has performed from the earliest epochs of our earth's history to the present time.

The affinities of this element surpass those of all others. It is universal in its appetencies. But one substance exists with which it has not been demonstrated that it will combine.

The revelation of its marvellous properties overturned the doctrines of chemistry, and this science dates its rise from the year 1774, when Priestley, in England, first liberated oxygen from the red precipitate, or red oxide of mercury by concentrating upon it the heat from the sun.

Almost simultaneously Lavoisier, of France, and Scheele, of Sweden, made the same discovery, each ignoran

ed for the artificial production of power, and the imponderable forces—heat, light, galvanism and electro-magnetism.

With the exception of wind and water power it is the source of all motion under man's control. Our intellectual and physical forces, as well as brute power, are pre-eminently due to the respiration of atmospheric oxygen.

The tortoise breathes but little of it and crawls on the earth; the bird much, and fles in the air.

All machinery moved by steam—whether used in factories, in vessels for freight or travel by land or by water—depend upon the union of oxygen with fuel.

The basis of improvements in speed attained by the locomotive or of power in steam engines is increase in the supply of oxygen.

Electricity as applied to telegraphic or motor purposes depends on the oxidation of zinc in the galvanic or voltaic battery.

We estimate the comparative expense of steam and electricity by counting the cost of carbon versus zinc, both of which elements must be associated with oxygen.

It is the sudden release of oxygen in gunpowder,

zinc, both of which elements must be associated with oxygen.
It is the sudden release of oxygen in gunpowder, gun cotton, the fulminates or in nitro-glycerine that propels the projectile or blasts the rock.

Excluding the warmth derived from the sun and the stars, with trivial exceptions, we can trace all heat to the affinities of oxygen as its source.

The lengthened chimneys to our furnaces, the blowers for hot or cold blasts, increase the fervency of the heat by increasing the supply of oxygen.

Upon this "vital air," as it was once called, our own peripatetic furnaces chiefly depend for heat, by the combustion of our food and of the tissues of our bodies.

The varying warmth of different forms of animal

bodies.

The varying warmth of different forms of animal and insect life is graded by the amount of oxygen inspired.

As a general rule all light produced upon the earth, from the pale phosphorescence of the numb. e forms of aquatic life, or that of the glow worm or the firefly, to the most brilliant devices designed by man, emanate from the combinations of oxygen.

The candle, the oil lamp and coal gas, in order to evolve light, need oxygen "to support their combination."

evolve light, need oxygen "to support their combustion."

The much more brilliant Drummond light is produced by burning hydrogen, or carburetted hydrogen with pure oxygen, and in contact with lime, magnesia or other solid, which, for the time, is rendered incandescent.

Metallic magnesium burns with dazzing brightness because of its affinity for oxygen; and the most effulgent of all lights ever made by science and art combined, comparable even with the sunbeam—the electric light—originates from the reactions of oxygen in the galvanic ceil.

This condensed statement of the services performed by oxygen in the progress of science is made to demonstrate the importance of producing this element abundantly and at a commercial price.

Ever since its discovery chemists, appreciating the

And the control of the children has been control of the control of

exygen at a price which will enable us to employ it for heating and for illuminating purposes. for heating and for illuminating purposes.

I venture to predict that this discovery will work an enthe revolution in our system of lighting street, and public and private initialities. For brilliancy, economy and health combined, the light produced by it surposess all others with which I am accommission.

I have frequently witnessed this light as explicited at your office. I have also examined the reports of the photometric experiments made at the laboratory and in the presence of M. Le Blanc, engineer-in-chief of the office of registration for lighting the city of the office of registration for lighting the city of the laboratory of the Museum of Arthiert, by our shemist, M. Schwarzweber, at the request office for the laboratory of the Museum of Arthiert, by our shemist, M. Schwarzweber, at the request office for the laboratory of the Museum of Arthiert, by our shemist, M. Schwarzweber, at the request office for the laboratory of the mode of llumination. Hyposesses the following advantages:—

Pirst—It is more purely white than any of the light ordinarily used; hence must be a blending of the various colors in quantity and proportion, enterther and the lights ordinarily used; hence must be a blending of the various colors in quantity and proportion, enterther and the lights of the more decreased in the light of the laboratory of the light of the laboratory of the light can do there by the usual artificial lights.

Second—It is many times more brilliant than the standard gaslight, with the same consumption of coal gas. According to the French reports, it excells by sixteen and a half times that produced in the city of Paris. I find it to exceed ours (flat of the Mahatan Gas Company) consumed in the English shifting and the laboratory of the light can be seen on a white surface, literally causing these lights to produce their own shadows.

Third—The light is steady and without flucer caused to pass from any ordinary flame, the refraction of the light can be seen on a white surface, literally causing these lights to produce their own shadows.

Third—The light is steady and without flucer constant currents of air which they them selves excite and which may be produced by other causes, while this light (the oxygen gas) emanates from a solid pencil of compressed magnesia, fixed in a solid support, and rendered light,

while it would abstract more oxygen from the suntime.

In this new lamp oxygen is supplied in sufficient
quantity to consume the coal gaz—the atmosphere is
not taxed to aid the combustion—and as the consumption of carburetted hydrogen in this burner is
from one-sixteenth to one-twentieth for the same
illuminating power there will be proportionally less
of impurities resulting from its use.

From our gas flames a portion of unconsumed carbon always arises, which darkens the ceilings, soils
the wails and the furniture. No such smoke escapes
from this light, for the combustion is complete.

For out of door illumination it has an additional
advantage that by no possibility can it be "blown
out." The chemical action is so intense that it cannot be extinguished in the stormest weather; and
even if the two gases be shut off for a minute or two
the glowing pencil of magnesia will relight them
when they are again turned on. The preparation of
this oxygen differs markedly from the making of
coal gas; there is no ill odor attending it; and if
hydrogen should be employed, as proposed by the
same ingemious French chemists, their method of
fabricating it by heating fine anthractic coal dust,
peat or other carbonaceous substance mingled with
hydrate of sime, would furnish us with means for
illuminating and heating, without contaminating the
atmosphere of our crowded cities with the nauseating and unwholesome gases with which we are now
annoyed.

In point of economy by the use of oxygen and

THE NATIONAL GAME

Base Ball Notes.

Pres dent Boughton, of the Atlantic Club, leaves to-morrow for the West, and will meet his "boys" at indiananolis.

Radcline, of the Athletic, is reported to have done some tremendous batting at Detroit. After the close of the Atlantic and Cream City game, at Milwaukee, a throwing match was made for a purse of \$25, and was won by George Reding-

ton, catcher for the Cream City. The Tri-Mountains, of Boston, defeated the Kear-sarge on Tuesday with a score of 41 to 18. Neither club was fully represented and the ground was much to the disadvantage of the Kearsarge nine.

Mr. John A. Lowell's umpiring in the Howard and Princeton College game is highly spoken of. So it should be, unless Mr. Lowell has changed very much

lately. Forker, first baseman of the Mohawks, of Brook

Forker, first baseman of the Mohawks, of Brooklyn, whose fine playing has been so much admired, leaves the Mohawk Club for a position at Washington in the National Club.

Star paper is in much demand at "gold" prices. There is a report abroad to the effect that the Athletics, of Philadelphia, and the Stars, of Brooklyn, will play on July 7 prox.

Troy is becoming brisk. The Star Club has been reorganized, and a new club, entitled the Mutual, has been started.

The Central City Club, of Syracuse, declines playing the return game of their match with the Haymakers within the prescribed fifteen days, and, as is alleged, without giving any reason.

The Liberty and Lincoin Clubs, of Springfield, Ill, had a rather one-sided game on Saturday last. The Liberty won. Score, 89 to 7.

The Actives made their first bow this season before an audience of this vicinity at the Capitoline grounds on Wednesday afternoon. The Harlems were opposed to them for the nonce, and a good game was expected, but the expectant ones were disappointed. The game was a very tame affair, rendered much more so by the lenity of the umpire in allowing the strikers to stand at the bat and the pitchers to pitch almost as they pleased, without inflicting the legal punishment. Where judgment was otherwise called for, however, the umpire decided very fairly. The Actives showed at times that good play was in them, but they need practice. Before the close of the season, however, they will, no doubt, astonish somebody. They play well together, deport themselves in all cases judgment was otherwise called for, however, the impire decided very fairly. The Actives showed at times that good play was in them, but they need practice. Before the close of the season, however, they will, no doubt, astonish somebody. They play well together, deport themselves in all cases as gentlemen should, and if, perchance, they lose the game they certainly win the good opinion of the spectators. The Harlems are quite a different looking party from what the old style Harlems were in Captain Twomey's prime, when Mount Morris and Hamilton squares were the fields of their frequent triumphs. The Harlems are all young, and have some good material in them. Of the Actives, the Kelley brothers, Walker, Rogers and Haines did most of the work, and did it well. Of the Harlems, Crooker, Comstock, Asten and McEwen deserve mention. The game was closed at the end of sixth innings by the rain storm, with the Actives ahead, the score standing 16 to 8.

The Excelsiors defeated the Alert, of Seton Hall College, yesterday at the Capitoline grounds. The score stood 44 to 17. George Flanley, of the Mutuals, officiated as umpire in admirable style.

At Wilmington, N. C., on Tuesday last, the Scuppernongs and Harnetts had a fine game, which the latter won with a score of 28 to 14.

A prominent citizen of Wilmington offered to present to the member of the Harnetts who should make the best score, provided they won the game, one of the finest and most desirable bats that could be purchased in New York.

Two new clubs formed mostly from employes of the New York Clearing House, played a friendly game at Hoboken on Wednesday afternoon. The call themselves respectively the Amateur and Bankers' and Brokers' Association Clubs. The former won with a score of 29 to 6.

Schofield and Hamilton, of the Unions' Base Ball Park at Tremont.

The Champions, of Jersey City, on Wednesday, finding themselves liable to a bad defeat at the hands of the gentlemanity Eurekas, of Newark, and perceiving a rain storm imminent, resorted to the boyish practi

June 26.—Mohawk vs. Ivanhoe, of Sing Sing. June 26.—Mohawk vs. Ivanhoe, of Sing Sing. Capitoline grounds.
June 26.—Eckford vs. Oriental, of New York.
Union grounds.
June 27.—Mutual vs. Mohawk. Union grounds.
June 27.—Star vs. Independent. Capitoline grounds.
June 27.—Unions vs. Gramercy. Union's old grounds, Meirose.
June 27.—Hariem vs. Star, of Pleasantville.
To-morrow the Atlantics play with the Bloomington (III.) Club, and Saturday with the Unions, at St. Louis.

TROTTING AT THE FASHION COURSE.

A trotting match for \$1,000, mile heats, best three n five, in harness, came off yesterday afternoon at the Fashion Course between the black mare Black Bess and Mr. Chambers' bay mare Atlanta. Black Bess won the race, taking the first, second and fourth heats, the third being won by Atlanta in consequence of Black Bess cuffing her knee and breaking up repeatedly. A boot, however, was put on which covered the wounded place, and the black mare won the fourth heat cleverly. These mares are both daughters of Ethan Allen, and inherit the worst of his pecularities—the incapacity to carry weight or go a distance. Both of them have a fair turn of speed; but the last quarter of a mile is always too much the longest for this breed of horses, unless out occasion where they are brought on the trotting turf. Ethan Allen, himself a remarkably speedy horse, is very deficient in the requisite spoken of above.

The winner of the match, Black Bess, is a very beautifully proportioned little creature, as "pretty as a picture," with a stylish way of going, and her

The winner of the match, Black Bess, is a very beautifully proportioned little creature, as "pretty as a picture," with a stylish way of going, and her movements are as perfect as those of her sire; and although her action seems quite easy a mile is rather more than she is capable of going at her best gait. Atlanta is also a small bay mare, delicately constructed, of a very nervous temperament, and needs a great deal of nursing to get her to do anything. She has trotted in several purses this season, but has not yet scored a victory.

The attendance was very slim yesterday, although the weather was more inviting than it had been for some days past. The absence of many turfmen was probably, in a great measure, owing to the trotting now going on in Boston, and to the fact that horses of the calibre of those matched on this occasion seldom draw. In fact, nothing but trots by first class horses now bring an attendance to the course worth speaking of, as people will not pay high rates of admission for second class sport. This high rate of admission for second class sport. This high rate of admission for second class sport. This high rate of admission for second class sport. This high rate of admission for second class sport. This high rate of admission for second class sport. This high rate of admission for second class sport. This high rate of admission for second class sport. This high rate of admission for second class sport. This high rate of admission is mainly owing to the proprietors of our courses being compelled by trainers an drivers to give as much as eightly and sometimes ninety per control the entire proceeds of the track to that class of ment be there of the entire proceeds of the track to that class of ment be the proprietor of the entire particular the more track and will never patronize them when they are admitted to different practice prevails. Let there be no more gate money trots. If a proprietor is unable to give purses let him devote his grounds to other purposes than trotting.

First Heat.—Buc

MR. CHASE AND THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The following letter from Chief Justice Chase to General Dix expresses the views of the former on that great work of American enterprise, the Pacific

that great work of American enterprise, the Pacific Railroad.

WASHINGTON, NOV. 25, 1865.

My Dear Sir:—Your kind invitation "to write something that may be used at the breaking of ground on the Union Pacific Railroad" in Nebraska, found me in the midst of engagements so exacting that it has been impossible to write anything worth the reading.

Leould not, however, omit writing altogether, for that would imply an indifference to the work, which no American feels.

It is among my most pleasing recollections of service, as a senator from Ohio, that the first practical measure, looking to the construction of a Pacific Railroad, which received the sanction of Congress, was mored to me. That measure was an amendment to the Arms Appropriation bill, placing at the disposal of the Secretary of War 115,000, to be expended in surveys and explorations of routes for the road. It was adopted by the Senate in February, 1853, and was subsequently concurred in by the House. Its results are embodied in the volumes known as the Pacific Railroad Reports, printed by order of Congress.

It is another pleasing recollection that I had the honor in March, 1850, of presenting and commending to the Senate they memorial of Dr. Pulte, an intelligent physician of Cincinnati, praying that measures might be taken for the connection of New York with London, by extending the existing lines of telegraph to the Pacific, by way of the coast across Behring's Straits through Northern Asia to St. Petersburg, and there forming connections with the lines to the cities of Western Europe.

This great work has since been completed to the Pacific by the indomitable energy of Hiram Sibley, a private citizen of New York, aided by the simple promise of employment and compensation by the government. On the other side of the Pacific the Russian telegraph line from St. Petersburg, constructed by the imperial government, approaches, if it has not already reached the Pacific, and American enterprise is enlisted in the lask, now certain to be accomplished, of comp

enterprise is enlisted in the task, now certain to be accomplished, of completing the wondful works which the Cincinnati physician suggested over thirteen years ago.

Steam moves more slowly than lightning. The progress of the railroad has been necessarily slower than that of the telegraph. When the surveys and explorations for a route had been partially reported the subject of the railroad was again brought before Congress, and I again had some connection with it; now, however, of a less pleasant though still significant character. Solicitous for the progress of the work, I submitted a resolution in January, 1854, instructing the Committee on Roads and Canals to inquire into and report upon the construction of a railroad from some point on the western lines of the Western States to some point on the eastern line of California.

On the motion of Mr. Gwin the reference to the Committee on Roads and Canals was stricken out and the whole subject referred to a select committee of nine Senators, from which I was excluded because I then held about the same relation to the democratin party on the subject of slavery as the war democratin ow hold on the question of the rebellion.

Mr. Gwin's committee reported a bill which, after much discussion and sundry amendments, passed the Senate in 1856, but failing to receive the sanction of the House did not become law.

Nothing further of importance was done in relation to the Pacific Railroad during the next seven years. The attention of the country was absorbed by other questions; and it remained for the Thirty-seventh Congress to give a grand proof of the Stability of the republic and the worth of democratic institutions by taking up this great measure, in the midst of our terrible civil war, and framing it into a law. The Thirty-seventh Congress will be forever memorable in history as the author of many acts of legislation of transcendent importance and far-reacting consequences. Among these great acts the Pacific Railroad bill will remain as one of the most illustrious mo

PUBLIC PLUNDER IN THE SALE OF THE IRON-CLADS. Letter from Mr. William Faxon, Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Secretary of the Navy.

[From the Hartford Courant, June 25.]

The following letter from Mr. Faxon, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, to the editor of the Courant, we have permission to publish, though it was not written expressly for that purpose:—

Washington, June 23, 1868.

My Drar Sir.—The Courant of Saturday did not reach me until this morning, and I embrace the earliest opportunity to thank you for promptly expressing your disbelief in the statements growing out of the sale of the iron-clads Catawba and Oneota. For your own satisfaction let me briefly explain to you the other side of the story, stating, however, that there is no charge of "stealing" against either the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary or the chief of the bureau who consummated the sale—it is only of so arranging matters as to prevent other bidders than those who purchased the vessels from obtaining them—in other words, of favoritism or want of good administration of executive duties.

These vessels, with six others exactly like them in every respect, were appraised and advertised according to law. When the bidd were opened it was found that for these two vessels there were six bidders, and of course the highest offer was promptly accepted and the bidder notified to make a deposit, as required by the advertisement. This, of course, released all the other bidders from any obligation, expressed or implied, to stand by their offers. Nothing was heard from the highest bidder, and as the department was anxious to obtain as much as much as possible for the vessels, it notified the next highest bidder that he could have them at his bid ; but he, too, failed to respond. All the remaining bidders were then informed that if the the first was anxious to obtain as much as much as possible for the vessels, it notified the next highest bidder that he could have them at his bid; but he, too, failed to respond. All the remaining bidders were then infrom the highest bidder, and as the department was anxious to obtain as much as much as possible for the vessels, it notified the next highest bidder that he could have them at his bid; but he, too, failed to respond. All the remaining bidders were then informed that if they desired the vessels at the prices named by them; they must make a deposit of the required percentage within the time specified in the advertisement, and were distinctly informed, as appears by the published converspondence, that "should more than one party make the deposit the boats will be awarded to the highest bidder, and the amounts deposited by the others returned." The only "arrangement" necessary to secure the vessels was to put up the money; but not a dollar was deposed by any one. The bidder representing the parties who ultimately took the vessels knew that it was no object for him to put up the money, as he was the lowest bidder, and he knew also that there were six other vessels as near like these two as the buttons upon your coat are like each other, that could be purchased at the appraisal. Messrs. Swift & Co. then came forward as purchasers at the appraised value. The chief of the bureau labored long and hard to make them come up to the bid of one of their associates, but they would not give \$5,000 more for the Catawba and Oneota than for two others of the same class, in every way as perfect vessels, which could be had at a valuation made, in pursuance of an act of Congress, by a board of which Commodore Winslow, of Kearsarge fame, was chairman, assisted by four other officers, including two engineers of experience. The department had no choice as to the particular vessels to be taken. The eight were exacely alike, and it would as soon sell the Catawba and Oneota as any other two, or any other two as the Catawba and Oneota; and it made the sale, and put in the Treasury over three quarters of a million of dollars. The remaining six vessels have not been applied for to this day by any of the parties who think that they have been

ROMANCE IN WEAL LIFE. Another Enoch Arden-Captivity Long and

Another Enoch Arden—Captivity Long and Cruel.

(From the New Albany (Ind.) Commercial, June 22.)

Some years ago Paris Shiriey married a Miss Tate (step-daughter of Richard Houston), near Bloomington, in this State. Some time after the marriage Shiriey removed to lilinois, where, in the course of time, he bought a drove of cattle, and after sending his wife and two or three children back to Bloomington to remain with their friends until his return, he started with his cattle to California. A short distance beyond Salt Lake City he was captured by the Flathead Indians, and his cattle confiscated. He remained in captivity some eight or ten years. During all this time his friends heard not a word from him, and he was supposed to be dead. In the meantime his wife sought and obtained a divorce, and was married about a year ago and removed with her husband to Illinois. And now comes the sorrowful part of the story. On Thursday of last week, says the Mitchell Commercial, Shirley returned to his father's John Shirley's), near Bloomington, in bright anticipation of a happy meeting with his beloved wife and children, and when told that his wile was married he wept like a child. We learn that he has the oldest claim; but the courts can afford no relief. So closely did the "redskins" keep Mr. Shirley confined that he never heard a word of the rebellion until he made his escape only a short time ago. He bears upon his person unmistakable evidence of hard treatment; but he considers this a small matter when compared to the loss of the method of the children.

## FOREIGN MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

It froze in Paris during the nights of the 10th and

The Nies Journal reports that the King of Hanover has received authority to dwell in France and has chosen that city for his domicile.

An equestrian statue has been erected in Copenhagen to Frederick VII., the popular king, who gave Denmark its constitutional freedom and who was always hostile to the Germanic induces.

Count Bismarck, on account of his health, will pass the ensuing winter at Cannes, France, and instructions have aiready been received to prepare a villa for himself and family.

The family of the man who was recently killed at Antwerp by a tiger has had a pension settled upon it by the Zoological Society of that city, to whom the animal belonged.

The English papers state that the Viceroy of Egypt has decided that his second son, aged fifteen years, and who is destined to fill some military corner, shall finish his education in England. Lord Stanley, at the Viceroy's request, has desired the Commander-in-chief to appoint a colonel under whose charge the young prince will be placed during his sojourn in England.

sojourn in England.

Seven thousand dollars' worth of jewelry belonging to the Baroness Rothschild was lately lost in the street in Paris, and were found by a sergeant de ville, who deposited them at the police headquarters. In France police agents are not allowed to receive any recompense for such acts, but Lady Rothschild has written the Prefect, begging to be allowed to give the lucky under an equivalent reward.

The suit brought against Messrs. Erlanger, Arman, Woruz and others, by the United States government, was heard on the 11th inst., but was deferred for eight days in order to hear the counsel for the defence. The United States government is defended by MM. Moreau, Cayon and Berryer. The suit is brought to recover the sum of \$560,000, being the balance on vessels not delivered but paid for by the Southern States during the late rebellion.

The walls of a china manufactory in Harley, Staf-

Southern States during the late rebellion.

The walls of a china manufactory in Harley, Statfordshire, having become cracked and full of crevices, it was found on examination that it arose from the fact that the bed of coal under the soil had taken fire. Immense quantities of water were poured on it but without avail, A similar coincidence exists in Sarrebruck, where the fire underground extends several thousand feet square, and on the surface there reigns a continual spring. Even in the winter the trees remain green and flowers are frequently found.

found.

A Mrs. Blackmore was lately brought before the Criminal Court in London on a charge of bigamy, having married four husbands, who are all living. Her father, called upon as witness, was asked by the magistrate what his daughter's name was, to which he wittily replied, "I believe, your Worship, that her name is Blackmore, being that of her last husband—that is, if it is not Mills, who was her third. It is not likely that she bears the name of Rickaby or Reeve; but nevertheless it is not impossible." She fortunately escaped from this complication with one month's imprisonment.

A SOUTHERN CLASSICAL REUNION.

Speech of Wade Hampton at Washington College.

The Richmond Enquirer gives a correspondent's account of the commencement proceedings at Wash-

The Richmond Enquirer gives a correspondent's account of the commencement proceedings at Washington College, Va., as follows:—

The certificates of distinction and the diplomas having been awarded, and the orations on the part of the young men having been concluded, General Lee arose and said:—"I introduce to you, ladies and gentlemen, General Wade Hampton, of South Carolins, who has consented to address the literary societies." The General still looks young as when he rode in the van of the battle. The theme of the address was, "Duty as the best moving to an interest of the great republic be the maxim to govern you in all your relations to your State. Determine firmly that whatever may be your future position, whether in a public or private station, by no word or thought or deed to work detriment to your state. Be true to her, come weel, come wee, true to her material interests, her spottess fame, her unsullied honor, her grand traditions. You owe this duty to those immortal men who made Virginia what she was; you owe it to otherwise; you owe it to your state. She cannot now address her sons in the prond language of haughty Rome, asking them to see to it that the "Republic suffers no detriment," for her voice, that of old so potent, is stifled; but in mute agony she points to the heroic sons she has borne, to teach her younger born how to live for her. and, if need be, how to dle for her. As she calls up her mighty dead to stand before you, methinks I see coming at her summons an illustrious host of heroes, sages and patriots. I see assembled the sons of the Old Dominion—men of heroic mould—and from their midst I hear the voice of the forest-born Demecthenes, as he exciainns, in tones that roused America and still find an echo in the heart of every lover of freedom, "Give me liberty or give me death I' I see afferson, as with impressive solemnity he presents to the patriots of "75 what was once our Magna. Charta—the immortal Declaration of Independence. I see Madison framing that constitution which he fondly h

'Who taught us how to live, and, Oh, toe high!

For such a price, who taught us how to die!'

should any further incentive to confirm your waver-ing faith be then needed, turn from the grave of the dead hero and Christian to contemplate the living ones and learn to live like him, whose inspiration has been patriotism and whose pole star is duty "

A Novel Prize Fight in Richmond, Va.

A Novel Prize Fight in Richmond, Va.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, June 24.]

A puglistic encounter took place yesterday between two well known characters of Jederson ward—Pat Lee and Jack Wrenn. The fight, it seems, originated at the York river depot the evening previous, owing to some words which passed between the parties of a very unpleasant nature. One of the parties, considering himself aggrieved, sent a challenge, which was promptly accepted, with the understanding that the matter should be settled in accordance with the rules of the prize ring. The friends of each party were selected, who made all the preliminary arrangements, having chosen a spot on the south side of James river, beyond the reach of the city authorities—Pat Lee being accompanied by William Peasley and John Finn, and Jack Wrenn by his brother. Dan Wrenn, and Robert H. Alien. After reaching the spot selected for the combat they were prepared for the fight by their respective seconds, and time being called by Mr. William Holmes, who acted as referee, they came up to the scratch and went at their work in good earnest, and fought for a considerable length of time. At the close of the seventeenth round Wrenn's second threw up the sponge, and Lee was declared the victor. All hands then returned to the city, apparently on the most friendly terms. Very little dainage was done to the "mug" of either party. Lee with the fight by giving his opponent a series of heavy blows in the body.

A CURIOUS ELOPEMENT.

[From the Auburn (N. Y.) Advertiser.]

We have recently been informed of a most singular affair occurring during the last winter, and which has only just now been made public. It seems that some time in January last a couple of married men, residing not a hundred miles from this city, became, each unsuspected by the other, enamored of said other's better (or worser) half, and the matter was carried on so far that each of the fair (or faise) once agreed to clope with her neighbor's husband. An especially dark night seemed to favor the design, and was chosen by each as the favorable opportunity. The evening train going east from this city conveyed the voyagers on their journey, one couple getting on the rear and the other on the forward car, unseen and unsuspected, it having been arranged that the wife in each case should go to the train unaccompanied, and only be joined on board by her "affinity" just at the moment of departure. Arriving at Syracuse, the pairs sought the waiting room at the depot, where they would necessarily clearly an experiment of the continue the journey, and proceeded to desencumber themselves of the partial disguises assumed for the occasion, when, to the unspeakable horrer of sach couple, it was discovered that the siffair had falled, for husband number one recognized before him, in the now unveiled face of his recent travelling companion, the lineaments of his own devoted vife, whose excited nerves had hitherto prevented a recognition of her dear husband's form in the dim obscurity of the railread car. In a similar appailing manner was the storn reality forced upon the other thunger stricken comple, and the early morning train out of Syracuse, westward, brought to this city two thencervibly faithuff and constant couples, whose night journey east, so said denity executed without apparent cause, occasioned no small wonderment among their nearest nighbors. "The Mistake of a Lifetime" was not a psech to the thrilling experience thus dished up for these ventures much as processed on the membe

the members of these two matrimonial firms.

THE MARQUETTE CONFLAGRATION—INSURANCE LOSSES.—A correspondent of the Chicago Republican at Maquette, Mich., says:—The total loss by the frois \$1,250,000. Of this it is singular to note that the insurance losses are only \$150,000. These are divided as follows:—Ama, \$19,800; London and Liverpool, \$22,700; Underwriters', of New York, \$22,700; Harford, \$10,000; Phenix, of Hartiord, \$10,000; Putnam, of Hartford, \$5,000; Boatmen's, of Cincinnat, \$5,000; Boatmen's, of Cincinnat, \$5,000; Boatmen's, of Cincinnat, \$5,000; Milwaukee Mutual, \$6,000; Atna (of Oxford, Mich.), \$22,500; Home, of Michigan, \$20,000.